

**VOLUME 00 NUMBER 9**

**LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER**

**MAY 5, 2000**

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
MILK PDI  
AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS  
LAND VALUES**

**LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 1.7 million pounds, unchanged from February, but 6 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,900 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, unchanged from February, but 600 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 919 pounds, up 108 pounds from the previous month, and 173 pounds above March 1999. Total live weight at 1.76 million pounds was up 13 percent from February, but 5 percent below a year ago.

**Calves** slaughtered during March totaled 1,100 head, unchanged from February, but 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 419 pounds, down 71 pounds from February, and 45 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight at 446 thousand pounds was down 15 percent from February, and 2 percent below a year ago.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 3,700 head, unchanged from February, but 500 below March 1999. Average live weight was 211 pounds, down 12 pounds from February, and 2 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 776 thousand pounds, 7 percent below the previous month, and 14 percent below a year ago.

The total number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 500 head, unchanged from both February and the previous year. Live weight averaged 95 pounds, down 23 pounds from the previous month, and 15 pounds below the previous year. #

**UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.04 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the previous record high of 4.02 billion pounds produced in March 1999.

March 1999 and 2000 both contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

**Comparing March 2000 with March 1999**

**Beef production**, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, up 3 percent from 1999. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,215 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 20.0 million pounds, 2 percent below the previous record low for March set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 103 thousand head, down 12 percent from March 1999. The average live weight was 33 pounds above last year, at 320 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.81 million head, 3 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent from March 1999, and down 8 percent from the previous record low for March set in 1997 and 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 344 thousand head, 19 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January-March red meat production was 11.6 billion pounds, 2 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 4 percent higher than last year, veal was 1 percent higher, pork was 1 percent lower, and lamb & mutton was down 6 percent. #

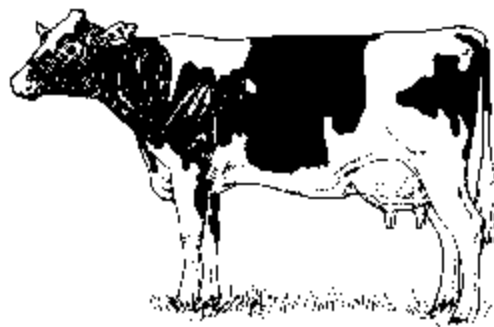
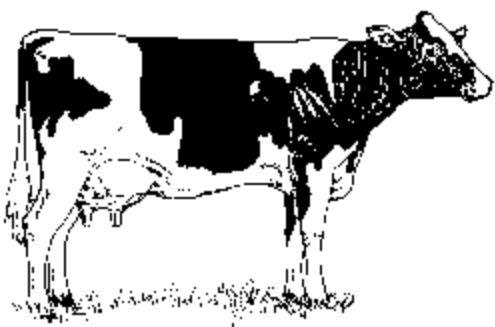
**COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION**

ITEM	LOUISIANA					UNITED STATES			
	February	March		January-March		March		January-March	
	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<b>Number, thousand head</b>					<b>Number, thousand head</b>			
Cattle	1.9	2.5	1.9	6.6	5.8	3,050.4	3,131.0	8,734.2	9,004.9
Calves	1.1	1.0	1.1	3.3	3.1	116.8	102.8	321.9	291.5
Hogs	3.7	4.2	3.7	11.0	10.3	9,117.7	8,810.5	25,579.1	25,018.6
Sheep & Lambs	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.2	423.9	344.2	992.1	918.9
	<b>Total live weight, thousand pounds</b>					<b>Total live weight, thousand pounds</b>			
Cattle	1,549	1,846	1,755	5,031	4,916	3,709,209	3,802,845	10,646,033	11,011,358
Calves	525	457	446	1,504	1,434	33,482	32,938	91,319	91,976
Hogs	831	899	776	2,439	2,224	2,362,701	2,308,081	6,622,650	6,549,378
Sheep & Lambs	55	53	45	110	114	57,919	48,120	134,373	127,182
	<b>Average live weight, per pound</b>					<b>Average live weight, per pound</b>			
Cattle	811	746	919	762	848	1,216	1,215	1,219	1,223
Calves	490	464	419	456	463	287	320	284	317
Hogs	223	213	211	222	216	259	262	259	262
Sheep & Lambs	118	110	95	110	95	137	140	135	138
	<b>Million pounds</b>					<b>Million pounds</b>			
Red meat	1.7	1.8	1.7	5.1	4.9	4,017	4,044	11,387	11,596

## MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME, LOUISIANA

YEAR	Production	Combined Marketings of Milk and Cream				Gross Producer Income 2/	Value of Milk Produced 3/
		Milk Sold	Average Returns 1/		Cash Receipts from Marketings		
			Per 100 Pounds of Milk	Per Pound Milkfat			
	-----Million Pounds-----		Dollars	Cents	-----1,000 Dollars-----		
1996	838	823	16.20	4.63	133,326	133,974	135,756
1997	794	779	14.30	4.12	111,397	111,826	113,542
1998	751	738	16.20	4.68	119,556	119,880	121,662
1999	711	699	16.30	4.68	113,937	114,263	115,893

1/Cash receipts divided by milk or milkfat in combined marketings. 2/ Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption. 3/ Valued at averaged returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream. Includes value of milk fed to calves.



### 1999 LOUISIANA MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Milk production in Louisiana during 1999 totaled 711 million pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. The number of milk cows on farms averaged 61,000 head during the year, down 2,000 head from the previous year. Production per cow averaged 11,656 pounds for the year, down 265 pounds from a year earlier.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk and cream during 1999 were valued at \$114 million dollars, down 5 percent from 1998. Producer returns averaged \$16.30 per hundredweight, up \$.10 from a year earlier. Milk sold totaled 699 million pounds, compared with 738 million pounds sold during 1998.

Milk used on farms, including milk fed to calves, totaled 12 million pounds in 1999, down 8 percent from the previous year. Milk consumed for cream and butter, where produced, accounted for 2 million pounds of the total. The remaining 10 million pounds were fed to calves.#

### 1999 UNITED STATES MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Milk production increased 3 percent in 1999 to 163 billion pounds. The rate per cow at 17,771 pounds, was 582 pounds above 1998. The annual average number of milk cows on farms at 9.16 million head, was 2,000 more than 1998.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 1999, at \$23.2 billion dollars, was 4 percent below 1998. Producer returns averaged \$14.38 per hundredweight, 7 percent below 1998. Marketings totaled 161 billion pounds, 3 percent above 1998. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.37 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 3 percent less than 1998. Calves were fed 83 percent of this milk with the remainder consumed in producer households.#

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 4 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in April was 99 based on 1990-92= 100, up 4.2 percent from the March index. Higher prices for hogs, broilers, eggs, and strawberries more than offset price decreases for cotton, corn, grapefruit, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk, and oranges more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs. These marketing changes accounted for one point of the April index increase.

Compared with April 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 3.1 percent higher. Price increases from April 1999 for hogs, cattle, tomatoes, and calves more than offset price decreases for lettuce, milk, oranges, and carrots.

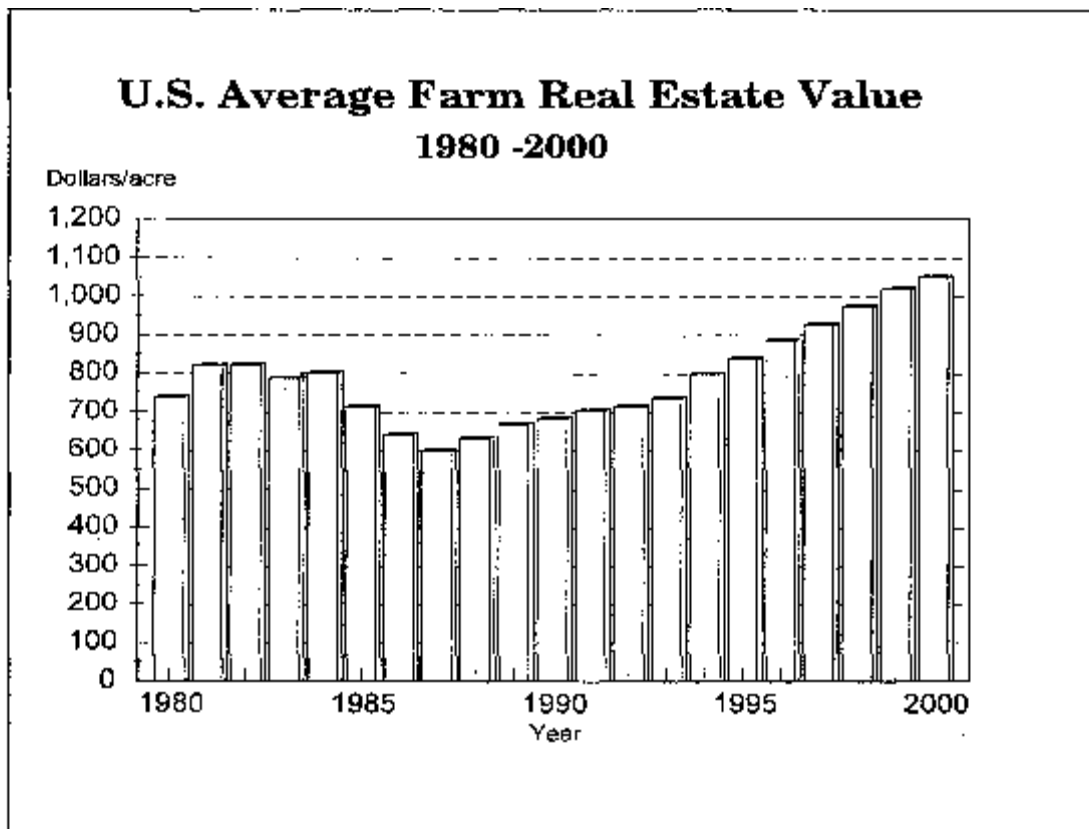
## PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The April index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates, (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from March, but 3.5 percent above April 1999. Lower prices in April for LP gas, feed grains, feed concentrates, and diesel fuel were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, hay and forages, feeder pigs, and self-propelled machinery.

## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY
	April 1999	March 2000	April 2000 1/	April 1999	March 2000	April 2000 1/
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushels	<b>4.71</b>	<b>5.08</b>	<b>5.22</b>	4.63	4.91	4.99
Rice, per cwt	<b>8.26</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.82</b>	8.49	5.82	5.82
Upland Cotton, per pound	<b>.519</b>	<b>.455</b>	<b>2/ .419</b>	.556	.479	2/ .450
Hay - all, baled, per ton 1/	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	82.50	74.80	80.70
Beef Cattle, per cwt	<b>43.90</b>	<b>53.00</b>	<b>53.20</b>	62.70	69.80	70.10
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	<b>68.80</b>	<b>89.60</b>	<b>88.00</b>	66.00	73.40	73.80
Cows, per cwt	<b>33.70</b>	<b>38.80</b>	<b>39.00</b>	35.10	39.00	39.60
Calves, per cwt	<b>80.60</b>	<b>107.00</b>	<b>106.00</b>	88.20	109.00	110.00
Broilers, live, per pound	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	.354	.349	.365
Eggs All, per dozen	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	.615	.574	.655
All Milk, per cwt 3/	<b>13.00</b>	<b>4/</b>	<b>4/</b>	12.60	11.90	11.90

1/Mid-month; 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month; 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies; 4/Monthly estimates discontinued January 2000. N/A = Not Available



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LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
(225)922-1362  
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BATON ROUGE, LA. 70896-5038

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